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# INTERIM HIKING TRAILS PLAN

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# Interim Hiking Trails Plan CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA



# INTERIM HIKING TRAILS PLAN

## PART OF THE RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The following text was adopted as a part of the Interim Hiking Trails Plan.

### PURPOSE

This interim version of the Hiking Trails Plan was developed to provide an official plan for Contra Costa County to use in funding and implementation programs, and in inter-governmental coordination activities during the period that a full "Trails and Paths Plan" is being reviewed and processed for adoption. An interim plan is necessary during the period because decisions on the location and design of several important hiking trails need to be made in the context of a countywide network. The Interim Hiking Trails Plan describes a countywide system of future hiking trails intended for cross-country travel by individuals, families, and hiking groups.

This Interim Hiking Trails Plan was prepared in conjunction with similar plans for Bicycle Paths (adopted June 20, 1972) and Riding Trails. All three trails systems were developed to a large extent through the use of available city and regional agency trails plans and with information supplied by interested persons, hiking groups, and other user groups.

The intent of this plan is to facilitate circulation as well as to expand recreational opportunities. Therefore, this plan is also

a functional part of the Circulation Element of the General Plan.

### DEFINITIONS

**HIKING TRAIL.** All trails included in this plan are major, or primary, trails. These are intended for extended travel by individuals or groups of varying skills and ages. They typically connect important trail use destinations such as major parks and points of special interest. Hiking trails may be paved or, preferably, surfaced with resilient materials to keep down dust and permit travel in all weather.

**SUGGESTED OVERLOOK.** This plan shows the locations of key vista points along the proposed trails. These vista points, along with features not shown, such as historical buildings and minor parks, contribute to the interest afforded by the trails, and they also suggest places where trail-providing agencies might install "waysides" with shade and seating.

### PLAN NOTES

1. Only major connections are shown through incorporated areas.
2. Internal trails in major parks and watershed lands are not shown.
3. All trails in unincorporated areas have been field checked but require additional detailed design studies before implementation. The feasibility of some trails is contingent on the results of these later studies.

4. Development of the Hiking Trails network will have to be staged over a period of many years. Similarly, the full development of any given trail segment may be reached in stages.
5. All trails on East Bay Municipal Utility District lands are suggested facilities that are subject to approval by the Board of Directors of EBMUD.

### IMPLEMENTATION

1. Several of the most significant trails on this plan, i.e., certain of those that connect major parks, are part of the regional trails system expected to be developed and maintained by the East Bay Regional Parks District.
2. Several other key trails are proposed on East Bay Municipal Utility District lands. EBMUD's trail plans have not been completed, but it is anticipated that part of these may be developed by EBMUD and the remainder by other groups and agencies with the consent of EBMUD.
3. Although Hiking Trails on road rights-of-way are not preferred, they are occasionally unavoidable or the best choice among alternatives. Some county road rights-of-way are adequate for the installation of trails but additional width will be required for full development in most cases. Subject to budgetary and program authorizations, then, the Contra Costa County Department of Public Works can aid in the implementation of this plan in connection with future road projects.
4. Local recreation districts or service areas may become the implementing agencies for certain of the remaining trails, but their most appropriate role would be to provide local feeder trails and connections not shown on this plan.

### TYPICAL PLAN INSTALLATIONS

Typical cross-sections will be recommended for inclusion in this plan after studies (primarily concerned with Bicycle Paths) sponsored by the State of California have been completed and their recommendations reviewed for best applicability.

### CONTINUED TRAILS PLANNING

Following this plan's adoption, several hiking trails additions have been suggested by local cities and agencies and will be studied in the future. These include:

A shoreline riding and hiking trail from Point Pinole, northeasterly, to tie in with the county trails network in the vicinity of Port Costa.

Additional trails in the Clayton area, principally along Mitchell, Mt. Diablo and Donner Creeks, which would link with other regional trails and Mt. Diablo State Park.

A trail in the vicinity of the P. G. & E. powerline easement south of Walnut Creek, linking the Lime Ridge and Rudgear Estates areas.

A riding and hiking trail from the Southern Pacific Railroad to Las Trampas Regional Park in the vicinity of Del Amigo Road in the Danville area.



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